



Vol. 69, pp. 123-126

September 12, 1956

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL FORMS OF BIRDS FROM PANAMÁ AND  
COLOMBIA

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

The two races described herewith have been determined during recent studies of the collections in the United States National Museum.

Columbidae

*Zenaidura macroura turturilla* subsp. nov.

*Characters*.—Generally similar in pale color to *Zenaidura macroura marginella* (Woodhouse)<sup>1</sup> but smaller; usually more buff on lower abdomen and under tail coverts; female somewhat darker, especially on the under surface.

*Description*.—U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 433,585, male adult (testes enlarged), El Espino, Provincia de Panamá, Panamá, collected April 1, 1951, by A. Wetmore and W. M. Perrygo (orig. no. 16,653). Forehead pinkish buff, shading to warm avellaneous on pileum and sides of crown; center of posterior part of crown and upper hindneck deep quaker drab; lower hindneck and adjacent upper back mouse gray; sides of neck warm light drab, with an elongated area extending down to the shoulder glossed with metallic purple, becoming metallic bronze-green in anterior portion, and showing a reflection of metallic bronze-green throughout; back, scapulars, tertials, inner secondaries and lesser wing coverts drab; rump and upper tail coverts light drab; a few flecks of black on the inner lesser wing coverts, increasing in extent on the scapulars, forming prominent spots and edgings of black on the tertials; middle and greater wing coverts mouse gray, washed on outer webs with drab and light drab; primaries chaetura black, the outer webs with a grayish wash, edged narrowly with white; secondaries neutral gray with a wash of drab at tips and on outer webs; central rectrices chaetura drab; next outer pair neutral gray, with an angular central spot of black, the outer margins of the webs washed with hair brown; the remaining rectrices with the basal area neutral gray, followed by a broad band of black and a broader tip of white; the under surface of all except the central pair extensively black at the base; sides of head pinkish buff below and behind the eye; a, small, narrow, elongated spot of black, glossed with blue, behind and below auricular region; chin and throat tiller buff;

<sup>1</sup>*Ectopistes marginella* Woodhouse, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, vol. 6, August 20, 1852, p. 104 (Cross Timbers, north fork of Canadian River, Oklahoma).

SEP 24 1956

foreneck and upper breast light cinnamon-drab, becoming cinnamon-drab on the sides of the neck; lower breast avellaneous; abdomen light cinnamon-buff; under tail coverts pinkish buff; sides and flanks light neutral gray; under wing coverts dark neutral gray; axillars light fuscous. Bill black; tarsus and toes dull buffy brown; claws fuscous. (From dried skin).

*Measurements.*—Males (6 specimens), wing 135.2-139.9 (137.3), tail 125.4-144.9 (132.2, average of three), culmen from cere 7.8-8.5 (8.0), tarsus 20.3-22.3 (21.2) mm.

Females (2 specimens) wing 124.7-129.7 (127.7), tail 107.3-111.2 (109.2), culmen from cere 7.6-8.2 (7.9), tarsus 18.9-20.2 (19.5) mm.

Type, male, wing 136.1, (tail with tip badly worn), culmen from cere 7.8, tarsus 21.2 mm.

*Range.*—Tropical savannas of western Panamá from western Chiriquí (base of Volcán de Chiriquí), through Veraguas (Soná, San Francisco, Calobre, Santiago) and Coclé (Penonomé, Antón) to western Provincia de Panamá (El Espino, base of Cerro Chame).

*Remarks.*—For many years status of the mourning dove in Panamá has been uncertain due to the small amount of information available. The western subspecies, *Zenaidura macroura marginella*, has been reported in winter from the western area of the republic, where I have seen birds occasionally that I believe were this race, though I was not able to secure specimens. Griscom recorded one bird of the eastern form *Z. m. carolinensis* from Divalá in western Chiriquí, and also listed the typical form *Z. m. macroura* as breeding near Santiago, Veraguas, in 1925.<sup>2</sup>

In March and early April, 1951 I saw mourning doves occasionally in the lowlands of the extreme western part of the Provincia de Panamá near El Espino, and on April 1 secured a male that was definitely a resident bird as it had been noted for a week at one particular spot along the highway. Further the testes were about one-half enlarged, which would not have been the case with a migrant.

Here the matter rested until May 10, 1953 when I found a dozen in a burned savanna 3 miles northwest of Antón, Coclé, noted males in display flight, and finally was able to approach a pair feeding together and shot the female. In this same area on May 13 I saw a number of scattered birds, and two flocks of about 25 each. In Veraguas, near Soná and Santiago, we found occasional mourning doves from May 20 to June 9, and secured two more males, one taken May 20 being in partial body molt. Others were noted near Penonomé, Coclé, June 17, and in the original locality near Antón on June 20. On March 26 and 27, 1955 I was interested to find a few of these doves around the base of Cerro Chame to the west of Bejuco, where they were cooing and were evidently resident. This point, about 50 kilometers from Balboa and Panamá City, is the farthest east at which I have observed the species to date.

With 3 males and 1 female taken personally in hand it was obvious that these represented a distinct race, similar in color to *Z. m. marginella* but smaller. Also it appeared that this Panamanian form, while similar in size to *Z. m. macroura* of Cuba with which it had been listed, was

<sup>2</sup>Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 78, April, 1935, p. 310.

definitely paler. During study at the British Museum (Natural History) in the summer of 1954 I found 3 more of these small birds in the Salvin-Goldman collection from Chiriquí, and from Calobre, on the Pacific side of Veraguas. There is also one in the U. S. National Museum, taken by Rex Benson, March 12, 1931, at San Francisco, Veraguas, 25 kilometers west of Calobre. Through this material it has been possible to make definitive studies, and to determine that the resident bird of Panamá represents an unrecognized form. Its smaller size is evident when the measurements given above are compared with the following set for *Z. m. marginella* taken from Ridgway<sup>3</sup>:

Males (29 specimens), wing 142-156.5 (149.4), tail 121-158 (138.4) mm. Females (10 specimens), wing 132.5-152 (143.2), tail 117-158 (127.3) mm.

The main difference is evident in the wing, since measurements of the tail are unreliable due to wear, particularly in the Panamanian series where the birds usually are resident in a harsh environment with rough, stony soil.

It is interesting that in the mourning dove as a species, where there are two color groupings, an eastern one that is darker and a western one that is paler, we may observe now that in both the northern birds are large and the more southern ones are small. The race *turturilla*, here described, thus has the same size relation relative to the northern *marginella* that the small *macroura* of Cuba bears to the northern *carolinensis*.

From present information the western mourning dove, *Z. m. marginella* is known to nest as far south as southern México. Mourning doves were recorded breeding near Dueñas, Guatemala by Osbert Salvin many years ago, and the species also has been found throughout the year in Costa Rica, though no evidence as to nesting has come to attention. Carriker was under the impression that those seen during the months of the northern summer were merely migrants that from age or infirmity had not made the return flight north, and that were incapable of breeding. Available information indicates a considerable separation in distance for the resident mourning doves of western Panamá from other breeding groups.

#### Trochilidae

##### *Phaethornis augusti curiosus* subsp. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Phaethornis augusti augusti* (Bourcier)<sup>4</sup> but definitely paler; throat and under tail coverts nearly white; above gray, less greenish.

*Description*.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 383,539, female, Ataquez, elevation 2500 feet, Magdalena, Colombia, collected May 30, 1945, by M. A. Carriker, Jr., (orig. no. 6120). Pileum chaetura drab faintly glossed with bronze-green; the feathers margined lightly with hair brown (producing faint squamations); hindneck, back and scapulars grayish bronze-green; rump and upper tail coverts Mikado brown; wing coverts bronze green (darker than the back); remiges slightly darker than chaetura drab, with a faint greenish gloss, the outer one

<sup>3</sup>U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 7, 1916, p. 348.

<sup>4</sup>*Trochilus augusti* Bourcier, Ann. Sci. Phys. Nat. Agric. et Ind., Soc. roy., etc., Lyon, vol. 10, 1847, p. 623 (Caracas, Venezuela).

margined lightly on the outer web with pale olive-buff; rectrices basally bronze green, tipped broadly with white, the lateral pairs becoming blackish at the junction with the white of the tip; side of the head including lores dull black, with a broad stripe of white extending above the eye and the ear coverts, and another from the rictus to the posterior margin of the ear coverts; chin and center of throat white; sides of throat, foreneck and breast pale grayish white, becoming white on the abdomen; sides and flanks tinged slightly with pale pinkish buff; under tail coverts white; edge of wing dull white; under wing coverts chaetura black; axillars white. Maxilla and tip of mandible black; rest of mandible dull cream color; tarsus and toes fuscous; underside of toes dull-cream-buff; claws dull black. (From dried skin.)

*Measurements.*—Females (4 specimens), wing 56.8-59.0 (58.2), tail 75.0-84.4 (78.4, average of three), culmen from base 31.7-35.0 (33.1) mm.

Type, female, wing 59.0, tail 84.4, culmen from base 33.8 mm.

*Range.*—Known only from the type locality, near Atanquez on the east base of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia.

*Remarks.*—This hermit hummingbird has been known in Colombia previously only from the upper tropical zone of the eastern Andes where the most northern record is at Ocaña, Norte de Santander. The specimens from Atanquez thus mark a considerable extension of range and record the species for the first time in the area of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. As the species is one of the higher levels in the tropical zone this northern population is isolated by the break between the Sierra Negra and the Sierra Nevada. The four specimens stand out at a glance from our series of *P. a. augusti* in much whiter under surface, the distinction being of especial interest in view of the wide range of the typical form from the mountains of eastern Colombia, through the Mérida region and the coast range of northern Venezuela. There are no males in our series of four specimens but the species is one in which the sexes are alike.